

CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A steering wheel, the steering wheel comprising a frame to be connected to a steering shaft, the frame having radially outwardly extending spokes and a rim, the frame defining a well or recess to receive an air-bag unit; the steering wheel being provided with a plurality of mounting elements, each mounting element being associated with a respective spoke, each mounting element being
10 connected to the steering wheel and having a portion overlying part of the steering wheel, each mounting element being adjacent a periphery of the air-bag unit; the air-bag unit being connected to each mounting element by means of a respective resiliently biased connection to enable relative movement of the air-bag unit with respect to the steering wheel, the peripheral part of the air-bag unit
15 defining a substantially predetermined gap with the said portion of the mounting element.
2. A steering wheel according to Claim 1 wherein at least one said resiliently biased connection between the air-bag unit and mounting element of
20 the steering wheel includes electric contacts configured to be moved to touch each other on movement of the air-bag unit against the bias to complete a horn or hooter circuit.
3. A steering wheel according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein each
25 resiliently biased connection comprises a compressible helical spring.
4. A steering wheel according to Claim 3 wherein the upper part of each spring is connected to an element which is received within a snap-fit socket provided on a projecting peripheral lip of the air-bag unit.

5. A steering wheel according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein at least some of the mounting elements are mounted to the steering wheel with a degree of freedom of movement, movement of each said mounting element causing the portion of the mounting element overlying part of the steering wheel to slide relative to the surface of the steering wheel.
6. A steering wheel according to Claim 5 wherein there are three mounting elements, one mounting element being mounted to the steering wheel at a predetermined position, and the remaining two mounting elements being mounted to the steering wheel with a said degree of freedom of movement.
7. A steering wheel according to Claims 5 or 6 wherein the steering wheel defines mounting platforms, and respective retaining recesses, each mounting element having a horizontal bias to a respective mounting platform and having depending snap acting elements receivable within the said recess, at least some of the recesses having dimensions greater than that of the snap acting elements to provide said degree of freedom of movement.
8. A steering wheel according to Claim 7 wherein each said recess is provided within a respective platform.
9. A steering wheel according to Claim 7 wherein each said recess is provided at a position adjacent a respective said platform.
10. A steering wheel according to any one of Claims 7 to 9 wherein each platform is located beneath a peripheral lip provided on the air-bag unit, the said portion of the mounting element over-lying part of the steering wheel being in

the form of a flange, said gap being defined between the peripheral lip and the said flange.